

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Medicaments in East Germany

DATE DISTR. 18 June 1953

NO. OF PAGES 9

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

25X1

This is UNEVALUATED
Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

ANTIBIOTICSPenicillin

1. Production is mainly handled by VEB Jenapharm, Jena¹. The Arzneimittelwerk Dresden² (formerly Madaus) is only making penicillin for oral administration. The quantity used in East Germany rose sharply in 1952; probably largely because of increased use of penicillin in the treatment of out-patients. East German production was sufficient, however, and in 1952 export to Bulgaria occurred, as well as deliveries within the frame of the "Aid to Korea" program.

Streptomycin

2. The supply situation is very difficult. Prof. Hans Knoell of Jenapharm has been promising production of certain amounts since 1951 but has not been fulfilling these promises. In late 1952, Knoell was delivering about 3 to 3.5 kgs. per month, from a laboratory or semi-technical plant. These deliveries were of crude streptomycin, only suitable for infant infections and could not be injected or used for military tuberculosis or tubercular meningitis. Attempts are now being made to raise production to 5 to 10 kgs. per month.³ 50 kgs. were imported from USSR production in the summer of 1952. These supplies were probably exhausted by January 1953, as the firm of Chemiepha⁴ was again smuggling kilogram lots

25X1

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		OSI	EV	X	ORR	EV	X
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	-----	----	---	-----	----	---

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 2 -

Chloromycin

3. Prof. Knoell's "chloronitrin" is being produced by Jenapharm at the rate of about 5 kgs. per month; this covers 70% of East Germany's needs. It now appears certain that "chloronitrin" is not the same as the western synthetic chloromycin, since three times the quantity of "chloronitrin" is needed to produce the same therapeutical effect.

Aureomycin

4. Prof. Knoell has two strains of aureomycin-producing molds now: Streptomyces aureofaciens and S. griseus. He obtained these from [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] He has not yet had any success in producing aureomycin. One difficulty is that [redacted] will not reveal to him the formula for the necessary nutrient. It is said that the strains which Knoell has, originated [redacted] East German requirements are about 4 kgs. per year. Because aureomycin is on the embargo list, 25X1 supplies come in very irregularly.

VITAMINSVitamin A

5. There has been no domestic production of vitamin A, but an ample amount has been imported; enough, in fact, to offer it for re-export.

Vitamins B1, B2 and B-complex

6. The supply situation of these vitamins is very bad. Imports [redacted] were not sufficient. 25X1

Vitamin B12

7. There has been no native production. There have been imports [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] This vitamin is particularly needed for the treatment of anaemia.

Vitamins C and D2

8. These vitamins are produced by Jenapharm in sufficient quantity to cover the needs of East Germany. The quality is good. The production of D2 by Saechsisches Serumwerk Dresden was stopped in the interests of Jenapharm.

Vitamin K

9. Vitamin K is produced in abundance by VEB Temmlerwerke, Berlin-Johannisthal.

HORMONE PREPARATIONS"Oestrasid"

10. This is synthesized by Asidwerk, Dessau⁵. There has been sufficient production to cover East German needs. Attempts are being made to re-export old stock [redacted] 25X1

"Lutocyklin" (luteal hormone) and "Ovocyklin" (Cyren A)

11. Asidwerk Dessau has produced sufficient amounts of this substance.

Desoxycorticosteroneacetate

12. This is needed for Schering's⁶ "Testoviron" and is in very short supply. Imports do not cover needs.

Insulin

13. East Germany requires 17×10^6 units per month. Schering is now producing about 2.5×10^6 units per month. The remainder is covered by imports. Needs can be met, from exports already received, until the autumn of 1953.

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 3 -

ALKALOIDSAtropine

14. This was not, in January 1953, a scarce commodity. Domestic production is not sufficient, but it was known, for example, that an important agreement was reached with the USSR, in the summer of 1952, for the importation of atropine sulphate.

Pilocarpine

15. There is no domestic production of pilocarpine. East German needs amount to 2 kgs. per month. The supply situation is very bad. This has been imported [redacted] Packing is handled by Arzneimittelwerk Dresden (5 g. lots).

25X1

Lobeline

16. No shortage is yet apparent. The small quantities needed can be covered by imports, but it is possible that old German Army stocks are also being used.

Physostigmine

17. Importation was planned for 1953 but cancelled, as not being essential.

Caffeine

18. A sufficient amount is available. Caffeine is synthesized by Jenapharm and by the chemical works at Falkensee.

STIMULANTSPervitin (d-desoxyephedrine)

19. Synthesized by VEB Temmler, Berlin-Johannisthal. There is an abundant supply. The plant is trying to obtain a relaxation of the strict prescription rules.

"Panalept"

20. A pervitin-containing compound of the Asid-Serum Institut, Dessau.

NARCOTICSMorphine

21. Morphine is prepared by extraction from poppy straw. This is worked up into crude morphine by the former Schering works in Reichenbach near Goerlitz. This achieves (after a recent improvement in the process) a morphine content of about 80%. The Reichenbach works produce about 6 kgs. of crude morphine (4.8 kgs. morphine DAB) per day, on the average. DAB is the East German pharmacopoeia. The Arzneimittelwerk Dresden refines this crude morphine into pure morphine.

Codeine

22. This is produced by the Arzneimittelwerk Dresden. Capacity and present production in East Germany amounts to 75 kgs. per month. This corresponds roughly to East German needs which, however, are apt to fluctuate rather widely. In July 1952, an export to Czechoslovakia of 50 kgs. per month for an unstated number of months was arranged, but this had to be reduced later, following pressure from the Ministry of Health, to the present rate of 25 kgs. per month. With this large export, the supply position in East Germany is bad.

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 4 -

"Dicodid"

23. A so-called "semi-synthetic" alkaloid, a morphine derivate, is produced by [redacted] There is no East German production. Attempts at production are apparently being made in Hungary, probably in the former Bayer works in Budapest. East Germany imported 5 kgs. in 1952; this was used for infantile coughs. The deliveries were not satisfactory, however, as they were found to be chemically impure.

25X1

Opium

24. Small amounts were imported in 1951 from China. In 1952, this item was omitted from the import plan as not being essential.

"Mecodin"

25. This is a Czech product, imported in large quantities from Czechoslovakia. It was considered a substitute for the anodyne "Polamidon". The doctors in East Germany did not take to "Mecodin", however, and the DHZ has a large stock now.

Acedicon (dihydrocodeinone enol acetate)

26. Formerly supplied by Boehringer from Schmoelln, Thuringia. Arzneimittelwerk Dresden is to produce this in 1953.

Cocaine

27. This is imported in small quantities [redacted]

25X1

Statistics sent to Geneva

28. The usual reports were made to the Narcotics Bureau at Geneva until July-August 1951. In October 1951, Secretary of State Jenny Matern gave a verbal order that this was to cease. This ban was lifted in the spring of 1952, and later the missing back statistics were also supplied to Geneva. The figures now supplied are certainly not merely imaginary, but they are subject to the disorganized state of the East German administration. The figures for the narcotic needs of the Peoples Police and the National Army are not included in the statistics sent to Geneva.

Drug addicts

29. The Ministry of Health maintains a card index of all East German addicts outside East Berlin. There are now some 300 names in the index.

OILS AND FATSOleum ricini (castor oil)

30. Sufficient supply. Imported mainly from Bulgaria.

Oleum jecor. aselli (sic)

31. The supply position has improved a great deal recently. Oil coming to the market is mainly cod-liver oil (Dorschlebertran), [redacted]

25X1

Unguent bases

32. Lanolin is still very short, despite imports from Bulgaria.

Paraffinum solidum

33. High melting point paraffinum solidum is in short supply.

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 5 -

Paraffin liquid (mineral oil)

34. Extraordinarily short. The production of the [] works is not at the disposal of East Germany.

25X1

Glycerin

35. The supply situation is extraordinarily bad. Supply is largely from insufficient imports.

ANALGESICS, ANAESTHETICS, ANTINEURALGICS, HYPNOTICS, and ANTIPYRETICS

36. The supply of hypnotics is not good as there is still no domestic production, in spite of the repeated promises made by the State Secretariat for Chemicals, Stones, and Earth to the Ministry of Health. Imports are generally sufficient only to supply in-patient treatment centers with hypnotics for oral administration. "Evipan" and "Evipan-Sodium" are particularly short.

Evipan-sodium (hexobarbital soluble)

37. A large import contract with Hungary (former Bayer works, Budapest) was signed in the fourth quarter of 1952. The goods arrived in mid-December 1952. They were distributed at once. The medicament was in some way impure, however, and the Ministry received numerous complaints, from doctors and hospitals, of unfavorable reactions (Unverträglichkeitserscheinungen). Dr. Erwin Marcusson, the Hauptabteilungsleiter of HA-I (Heilwesen) then ordered this "Evipan-Na" not to be used any further. DHZ Pharmazie was then given an urgent order to approach the relevant DIA and arrange the import of "Evipan-Sodium" [] and also the import of "Eunarcon" (sodium iso-propyl-beta-bromallyl-N-methyl barbiturate). The situation in January 1953 was still very bad.

25X1

Chloroform, ether and ethylchloride

38. Supplies from domestic production are sufficient.

Laughing gas

39. The gas cannot be obtained in a chemically pure form in East Germany. []

25X1

Curare

40. This is obtained in small quantities []

25X1

Local anaesthetics

41. Supplied by Jenapharm. The quality appears satisfactory.

Antipyretics and antineuralgics

42. Domestic production is not sufficient, except perhaps for phenacetine and acetylsalicylic acid for acetophenone in Stickstoffwerk Piesteritz. Acetic acid anhydride in particular is lacking.

43. Secale preparations are a particular difficulty. Clavitrates⁹ ampoules (?) are being imported from Czechoslovakia. The quality is quite satisfactory, but the quantity insufficient. The Ministry is making particular efforts to have Secale cornutum¹⁰ fluid and "Orathin" imported now.

MISCELLANEOUSIodine

44. Only available from imports and then only in restricted quantities. Supplies to apothecaries are quite insufficient.

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 6 -

Agar-agar

45. Supplies strained. The good Kobe I agar is particularly lacking. Comparatively large quantities of Dan-agar and Blix-agar are imported, however. [redacted] The hygiene centers of the Ministry of Health (ZfH) have been refusing the Blix-agar as it is about 55% coagulated and consequently quite unuseable for many nutritive media.

25X1

Fine analytical chemicals

46. The supply position is still in most cases very bad. Hygiene centers, food analysis centers and high schools are all suffering from this shortage and are attempting to procure supplies through the Ministry.

Camomile

47. Needs are about 60% covered from East German sources. There have also been imports from Hungary.

INH (Isonicotinic acid hydrazide, [redacted])

25X1

48. Supplies are sufficient. Jenapharm, Leuna¹¹ and Wolfen¹¹ are producing.

PAS (Para-aminosalicylic acid)

49. Production by Wolfen and Leuna. This does not quite correspond to [redacted] but it is an acceptable substitute.

25X1

Sulphonamides

50. The supply situation is (as has been the case in past years) bad. Schering is supplying "Albucid" and, irregularly, "Pyralcid". Old types of sulphonamide, like "Frontosil" and Euvernil (sulphanilylurea) are being produced by von Heyden. For good modern sulphonamides East Germany is dependent on imports: [redacted]

[redacted] In the last case, it was the practice for East Germany to import the material in bulk and for Schering, Berlin-Adlershof, to press the tablets. There are, however, difficulties at the moment as [redacted] is making the supply of the material conditional on the supply of the hormone preparations "Lutocyklin" and "Ovocyklin": these are already in sufficient supply in East Germany.

25X1

25X1

X-Ray contrast media

51. (a) The situation is not good. Domestic production extends only to BaSO₄ and BaSO₄ preparations. Since November-December 1952, Fahlberg-List of Magdeburg, the only producer of Ba preparations in East Germany, has been at a standstill in this line because of the lack of imported barium carbonate. Other contrast media are also in short supply, e.g. high-molecular iodine preparations for ureography, etc.

(b) Schering Adlershof supplies small quantities of "Per-Abrodil" but not enough to cover needs.

(c) [redacted] supplies some [redacted] which does much to help to relieve the shortages noted above. Czechoslovakia has exported to East Germany "Bilitrast" (beta, (4-oxy-3, 5-diiodophenyl); alpha, phenyl propionic-acid) and "Sombrabil"¹³ but these have proved unreliable in action and have been refused by doctors. The Hungarian "Bilospekt" (the same as "Bilitrast" above) imported into East Germany has been better than the Czech preparations.

25X1

(d) However, the Hungarian "Neoreumbral" (former Bayer works), imported in December 1952 had to be withdrawn completely, as it produced one or more fatalities.

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL-U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 7 -

Cortisone

52. Produced by [] Totally lacking in East Germany because it is on the embargo list.

25X1

Methionine

53. The supply situation as met from import is insufficient. This drug is much in demand for cases of cyrrhosis of the liver. It is needed in the form of []

25X1

The Soviet "Dibasol"

54. Some time in 1952, there was an article in the East German press (publication not specified) that stated that the progressive Soviet pharmaceutical industry had succeeded in developing a medium against poliomeylitis called "Dibasol". The Ministry of Health at once tried to obtain some of the new medicament. The Ministry tried through DIA-Chemie, through the Ministry of Foreign and Domestic Trade and through diplomatic channels (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The results have been quite negative to date. In the end, the pharmacoblogists of the Ministry's Dept. H-5 and chemists in interested East German works thought that the matter was probably a propaganda lie and that either there was no such thing as "Dibasol" or that some long-known chemical, now offered as new, was involved.

EAST GERMAN RESERVESThe operational reserve

55. At the beginning of January 1953, Dept. H-5 was told by the Minister that a reserve of 15,000,000 DM East worth had to be prepared by April 1953. This date was later extended to June 1953. It is planned to store all the well-known scarce substances, particularly streptomycin, chloromycetin, aureomycin and good sulphonamides. Storage would be in the sub-depots of DHZ Pharmazie. The Ministry does not believe that the plan is practicable and fears that the DHZ will merely try to use the money to load onto the Ministry a lot of goods which could not otherwise be disposed of.

The state reserve

56. (a) During 1953, a State reserve of 25,000,000 DM East is to be set aside. This represents about one month's supplies at present rates. It is to be increased to 50,000,000 DM East worth in 1954. A detailed plan had to be drawn up in January 1953.

(b) In contrast to the "operational reserve", the "State reserve" is planned to include more raw materials than finished products, although antibiotics will also be stored. Stores will include substances for the production of sulphonamides, antipyretics, antineuralgics, etc. Among drugs, camomile, peppermint, and belladonna particularly will be stored. Bandages, disinfectants and insulin will be included. Professor Walter, 14 who also signed the plan for this "State reserve", demanded the inclusion of gas-gangrene (Gaseodem) and botulism sera.

(c) The plan was sent on to Dr. Friedrich of the State Planning Commission (Health section) on 16 January 1953.

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 8 -

I N D E X

(by paragraphs)

Acedicon	26	"Mecodin"	25
Acetophenone	42	Methionine	53
Acetylsalicylic acid	42	Morphine	21
Agar-agar	45		
"Albucid"	50	Narcotics	21-29
Alkaloids	14-18		
Anaesthetics	36-43	"Oestrasid"	10
Analgaesics	36-43	Oleum jecor.aselli	31
Analytical chemicals	46	Oleum ricini	30
Antibiotics	1-4,55	Opium	24
Antineuralgics	42,55	"Orathin"	43
Antipyretics	42,55	"Ovocyklin"	11,50
Atropine	14		
Aureomycin	4,55	"Panalept"	20
		Paraffin	33,34
Barium	51	PAS	49
Belladonna	56	Penicillin	1
"Bilitrast"	51	Peppermint	56
"Bilospekt"	51	Pervitin	19
		Phenacetine	42
Caffeine	18	Physostigmine	17
Camomile	47,55	Pilocarpine	15
Chloroform	38	"Polamidon"	25
Chloromycetin	23,55	"Prontosil"	50
"Chloronitrin"	3	"Pyralcid"	50
Clavittitate	43		
Cocaine	27	"Remiphon"	48
Codeine	22		
Conteben	49	Secale	43
Cortisone	52	Sera	56
Curare	40	"Scombrabil"	51
		Stimulants	19-20
Desoxycorticosterone		Streptomycin	2,55
acetate	12	Sulphonamides	50,55
"Dibasol"	54	"Supronal"	50
"Dicodid"	23		
		"Testoviron"	12
"Elcosin"	50	"Thiomedon"	53
Ether	38		
Ethyl chloride	38	Unguent bases	32
"Eunarcon"	37		
Evipsh-sodium	37	Vitamins	5-13
Glycerin	35		
Hypnotics	36-43		
INH	48		
Insulin	13,56		
Iodine	44,51		
Joduron	51		
Lanolin	32		
Local anaesthetics	41		
"Latocyklin"	11,50		

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 9 -

1. Comment: VEB Jenapharm, Otto-Schott Strasse 13, Jena. 25X1
2. " " Arzneimittelwerk Dresden, Dresden-Radebeul 1, Gartenstrasse 16.
3. " " The streptomycin supply figures from Jenapharm have been confused. It is believed that this figure of about 3 kgs. per month is correct. Larger figures quoted have been targets or extravagant claims by Knoell.
4. " " Chemiepha, a well known officially-backed East Berlin illegal trading organization.
5. " " More correctly, Serum Werk, Dessau, Seminar Platz 3.
6. " " 'Schering' is probably Schering at Berlin-Spindlersfeld, Karl-Spindler-Str. 4 and 'Schering Adlershof' is Schering-Werk, Berlin-Adlershof, Glienicker Weg 181/182.
7. Comment: Probably Chininfabrik Braunschweig Buchler and Co., 25X1
Frankfurterstrasse 291-294.
8. " " Probably Astra Gesellschaft fuer chemische Erzeugbau m. b. H., Bergstrasse 9-11.
9. " " Possibly ergotamine tartrate.
10. " " Secale cornutum is bearded rye on which ergot grows.
11. Comment: Farbenfabrik Wolfen and Chemische Werke "Walter Ulbricht",
Leuna bei Merseburg. 25X1
12. Comment:
13. Comment The same as "Bilitrast".
14. Comment: Probably Dr. Karl Walter, National Army (KVP). 25X1

SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY